

What is claimed is:

1. A method for routing video calls to a user of multiple communication devices, the method comprising:
  - receiving a video communication request addressed to a recipient;
  - 5 identifying the recipient from information contained within the request;
  - determining a set of communication devices associated with the recipient;
  - selecting from the set of communication devices a first communication device with a highest probability of being presently accessible to the recipient at the time the request is received; and
  - 10 forwarding the video communication request to the first selected communication device.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - in response to the recipient not accepting the request within an established time interval:
    - 15 selecting a second communication device with a next highest probability of being presently accessible to the recipient after the first selected communication device; and
    - forwarding the video communication request to the second selected communication device.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
  - selecting from the set of communication devices a communication device to which the recipient is currently logged in.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:

selecting from the set of communication devices a communication device last accessed by the recipient.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
  - obtaining schedule data identifying probable physical locations of the recipient at various times;
  - determining from the schedule a probable physical location of the recipient at the time the request is received; and
  - selecting from the set of communication devices a communication device in closest proximity to the probable physical location of the recipient.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
  - storing usage pattern data identifying communication devices used by the recipient at various times; and
  - determining from the usage pattern data a communication device accessible to the recipient at the time the request is received.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:
  - storing user preference data identifying communication devices to be used by the recipient at various times; and
  - determining from the user preference data a communication device to be used by the recipient at the time the request is received.
20. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:

determining, based on a locator device carried by the recipient, an actual physical location of the recipient at the time the request is received; and

selecting from the set of communication devices a communication device in closest proximity to the actual physical location of the recipient.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:  
polling each communication device within the set for an indication of the recipient's presence.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:  
receiving an indication of the recipient's presence from a communication device within the set.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises:  
receiving an indication of the recipient's presence sent from a communication device within the set in response to a user command.
12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving configuration information from a user pertaining to a new communication device associated with the user; and  
20 adding the configuration information to information pertaining to a set of communication devices associated with the user.

13. The method of 12, wherein configuration information comprises at least one of a name for the communication device, a type of the communication device, and a network address for the device.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
5 in response to the user accepting the video communication request:  
establishing communication with the first selected communication device.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the video communication request originates from a caller device capable of audio and video communication and  
10 wherein establishing comprises:

detecting that the first selected communication device supports audio-only communication; and  
establishing an audio-only connection with the first selected communication device.

15 16. The method of claim 1, wherein each communication device in the set has an associated network address, and wherein forwarding comprises:  
addressing the video communication request to the network address for the first selected communication device; and  
transmitting the video communication request to the first selected  
20 communication device.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the network address comprises one of a uniform resource locator (URL), an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and a telephone number.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the video communication request is received by a communication node linking a caller and the recipient.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the communication node is selected from the group consisting of a set top box (STB), a cable head-end, an Internet server, and a satellite broadcast center.

5 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the video communication request comprises an address that uniquely identifies the recipient associated with the set of communication devices.

10 21. A system for routing video calls to a user of multiple communication devices, the system comprising:  
15 a reception component that receives a video communication request addressed to a recipient;  
an identification component that identifies the recipient from information contained within the request;  
a determination component that determines a set of communication devices associated with the recipient;  
20 a selection component that selects from the set of communication devices a first communication device with a highest probability of being accessible to the recipient at the time the request is received; and  
a forwarding component that forwards the video communication request to the first selected communication device.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured, in response to the recipient not accepting the request within an established time interval, to select a second communication device with a next highest probability of being presently accessible to the recipient after the first 5 selected communication device; and wherein the forwarding component is further configured to forward the video communication request to the second selected communication device.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to select from the set of communication devices a communication device 10 to which the recipient is currently logged in.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to select from the set of communication devices a communication device last accessed by the recipient.

25. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further 15 configured to obtain schedule data identifying probable physical locations of the recipient at various times, determine from the schedule a probable physical location of the recipient at the time the request is received, and select from the set of communication devices a communication device in closest proximity to the probable physical location of the recipient.

20 26. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to store usage pattern data identifying communication devices used by the recipient at various times and to determine from the usage pattern data a communication device accessible to the recipient at the time the request is received.

27. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to store user preference data identifying communication devices to be used by the recipient at various times and to determine from the user preference data a communication device to be used by the recipient at the time the request is 5 received.

28. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to determine, based on a locator device carried by the recipient, an actual physical location of the recipient at the time the request is received and to select from the set of communication devices a communication device in closest proximity 10 to the actual physical location of the recipient.

29. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to poll each communication device within the set for an indication of the recipient's presence.

30. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further 15 configured to receive an indication of the recipient's presence from a communication device within the set.

31. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to receive an indication of the recipient's presence sent from a communication device within the set in response to a user command.

20 32. The system of claim 21, wherein the selection component is further configured to receive configuration information from a user pertaining to a new communication device associated with the user and add the configuration

information to information pertaining to a set of communication devices associated with the user.

33. The system of 32, wherein configuration information comprises at least one of a name for the communication device, a type of the communication device, 5 and a network address for the device.

34. The system of claim 21, further comprising:  
a communication component that establishes communication with the  
first selected communication device in response to the video  
communication request being accepted.

10 35. The system of claim 34, wherein the video communication request originates from a caller device capable of audio and video communication, and wherein the communication component is further configured to detect that the first selected communication device supports audio-only communication and to establish an audio-only connection with the first selected communication device.

15 36. The system of claim 21, wherein each communication device in the set has an associated network address, and wherein the forwarding component is further configured to address the video communication request to the network address for the first selected communication device and to transmit the video communication request to the first selected communication device.

20 37. The system of claim 36, wherein the network address comprises one of a uniform resource locator (URL), an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and a telephone number.

38. The system of claim 21, wherein the video communication request is received by a communication node linking a caller and the recipient.

39. The system of claim 38, wherein the communication node is selected from the group consisting of a set top box (STB), a cable head-end, an Internet server, and a satellite broadcast center.

40. The system of claim 21, wherein the video communication request comprises an address that uniquely identifies the recipient associated with the set of communication devices.

41. A system for routing video calls to a user of multiple communication devices, the system comprising:

means for receiving a video communication request addressed to a recipient;

means for identifying the recipient from information contained within the request;

means for determining a set of communication devices associated with the recipient;

means for selecting from the set of communication devices a first communication device with a highest probability of being presently accessible to the recipient at the time the request is received; and

means for forwarding the video communication request to the first selected communication device.